

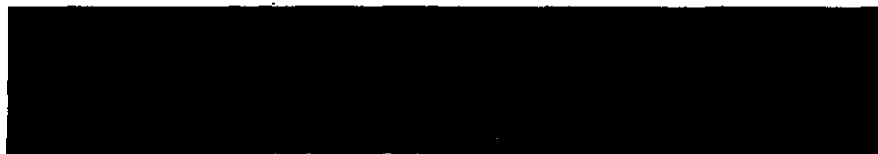


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Chile: Change in MIR Tactics

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) remains the most violence-prone opposition group in Chile, but heavy personnel losses last month and the apparently growing cohesion of Chile's other, nonviolent leftist political organizations have caused MIR leaders to reevaluate their group's structure and tactics.

[REDACTED] We doubt that the MIR will completely suspend military operations but believe that it will scale them back in coming months as the group attempts to recover from its recent setbacks and weighs the option of closer cooperation with the Chilean Communist Party (PCCH).

The MIR, founded at the University of Concepcion in 1965, suffered major losses at the hands of government forces in the mid-1970s, and most of its leadership fled the country. Since 1976 the MIR has been rebuilding, and it tried to recapture public attention and support in March and April of this year by significantly increasing the bombing of water, electrical, subway, and railroad facilities. Twenty-six bombings took place during March and April.

[REDACTED] We believe that the increase in low-risk bombings could indicate the MIR's declining capability to carry out more sophisticated terrorist activities.

Instead of generating support for the MIR, these attempts have drawn media criticism and strong counterattacks from police and carabinero intelligence units.

[REDACTED] and to focus on promoting a revolutionary peasant movement in southern Chile. The MIR was heavily involved in rural activism during the Allende regime, and southern Chile's high unemployment and farm foreclosure rates make it an attractive area for MIR organizing efforts.

The MIR's recent setbacks and its concerns over competition from the other leftist groups may have improved chances for a closer alliance between the MIR and the Chilean Communist Party. We believe that MIR leaders have been concerned for some time that the organization's image and position in Chile are declining and that other leftist groups are drawing away actual or potential MIR supporters. Cooperation between the PCCH and the MIR has been blocked in the past by disagreements over the latter's use of violence, but the weakened state of the MIR might make it more willing now to compromise on questions of strategy.

Based on the MIR's history, we believe its shift away from terrorist activity is only temporary. The MIR's previous foreign supporters—including Cuba, Nicaragua, East Germany, and Libya—will probably provide more training and funding in order to restore the group's military capability.

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